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ABSTRACT

This pamphlet was designed to answer questions frequently asked about the participation of migrant children in the Title I/Migrant Education Program in New Jersey. It discusses local school districts' strategies for identifying migrant students and how migrant children are defined. The pamphlet also covers: (1) employment considered temporary or seasonal work in agricultural, food processing, and the fishing industry; (2) interstate and intrastate classification of migrant children; (3) procedures for validating migrant students program eligibility; (4) student data in the Migrant Student Record Transfer System; (5) how local education agencies can apply for Title I/Migrant Education funds; and (6) educational responsibilities of the New Jersey Migrant Education Program and local migrant education projects. (LP)

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FINDING MIGRANT CHILDREN

IN NEW JERSEY

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FINDING MIGRANT CHILDREN IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey
Department
of Education
CN 500
Trenton, N.J. 08625

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Preface

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, including P.L. 95-561, is specifically designed to help educationally deprived children who reside in low income attendance areas.

It was amended in 1966 to include the children of migratory agricultural workers, and subsequently amended to include the children of migratory fishers.

children in the Title I/ Migrant Education Program in New Jersey.

Introduction

Every year migratory agricultural workers arrive in New Jersey to gather the crops of the Garden State. Single men come, and so do many families. Most of them find labor in the southern, central and northwestern regions of the state. Many of our own New Jersey residents seek agricultural work by traveling out of our northeastern cities in the spring to other regions within the state and out of state, returning in the off-season. Following a similar movement pattern, families engaged in the fishing industry also migrate to New Jersey in order

These youngsters, whose lives are frequently interrupted by travel, can continue their education in Title I/ Migrant projects throughout the state of New Jersey.

Through the New Jersey Department of Education, grants are made available to local educational agencies (LEAs) in order to implement supplemental projects designed to meet the special educational needs of migrant children.

In addition to the instructional services offered, supportive services are provided for migrant children, including identification and recruitment, the transfer of student records, and when necessary, medical and dental care, nutritional programs and related social services.

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Local School Districts Identify Migrant Students

The job of identifying and enrolling migrant children in the migrant education program rests primarily in the hands of local school districts and their employees.

Recruiters, hired and trained by the New Jersey Department of Education (Title I/Migrant, ESEA), are responsible for the validation of all migrant students within the state. Recruiters also may identify migrant children who have not been enrolled by an LEA. The local project is then responsible for enrolling the migrant child.

Who Is Considered A Migrant Child?

A migrant child is a child who has moved with his family across school district boundaries within the past 12 months in order that a parent, guardian, or other members of his immediate family may obtain temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, related food processing, or the fishing industry.

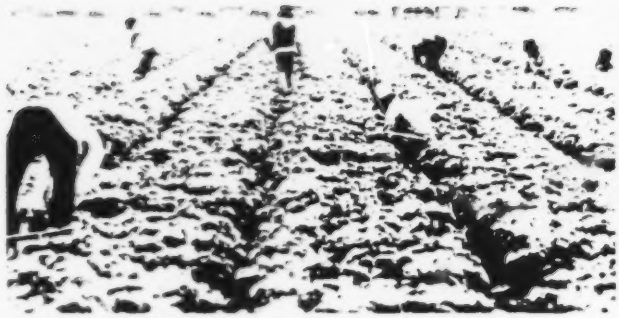
This definition includes a child who has been eligible to be served under the requirements in the preceding sentence, and who, without the parent or guardian, has continued to migrate annually to enable him or her to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.

The definition further includes a child who was eligible for services under the preceding requirements within the past 5 years, but who has ceased to migrate.

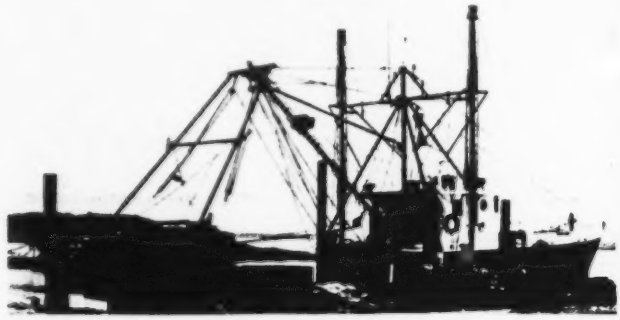
What Is Considered To Be Agricultural, Food Processing, And Fishing Industry Work?

Agricultural work is defined as a sequence of activities ranging from soil preparation through and including the cultivation, harvest, storage, curing, canning, or freezing of crops for initial commercial sale or as a principal means of personal subsistence.

Activities on farms or ranches related to the production and processing of milk, poultry, livestock and fish are also considered to be agricultural activities, as well as any operations involved in forest nurseries and in the cutting and transporting of timber.



Fishing activity means any activity directly related to the catching or processing of fish or shellfish for initial commercial sale or as a principal means of personal subsistence.



How Are Migrant Children Classified?

For purposes of student identification, there are six classifications of migrant children:

1. Interstate Agriculture
2. Intrastate Agriculture
3. Formerly Migratory Agriculture (five year migrant)
4. Interstate Fisher
5. Intrastate Fisher
6. Formerly Migratory Fisher (five year migrant)

An **Interstate** child is one who moves across state boundaries so that members of his family may find work in agriculture or the fishing industry.

An **Intrastate** child is one who moves across school district boundaries within a state so that members of his family may find work in agriculture or the fishing industry.

A **Formerly Migratory** (five year) child is one who has been an interstate or intrastate migrant as defined above but who, along with his parents or guardian, has ceased to migrate. A formerly migratory child may be eligible for program services for a period of 5 years after his parents or guardian cease to migrate.

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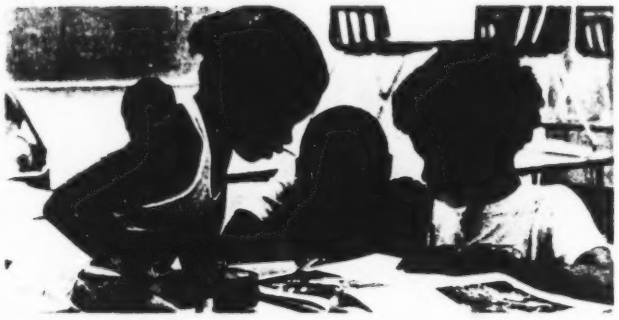

When Migrant Children Are Located

Once the Migrant Student Enrollment Form ("MSEF") has been completed by local school personnel, the local project authorized representative approves and signs it. Distribution of the MSEF is as follows:

1. The white (original) copy is sent to:

   New Jersey Department of Education
   Migrant Education Program
   CN 500
   Trenton, New Jersey 08625
2. The yellow copy is sent to the appropriate SEA recruiter.
3. The pink copy is retained by the local project.

The SEA recruiter is then responsible for validating the migrant child's eligibility. After validation, the original (white) copy of the Validation Form is forwarded to the local migrant education project, with the remaining copies retained by the SEA.

Migrant Student Record Transfer System ("M.S.R.T.S.") Handles Student Data

Data on the Migrant Student Enrollment Forms received by the SEA is processed by the M.S.R.T.S. office and transmitted to the Central Depository (data bank) in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The M.S.R.T.S. is a rapid tele-communication network connecting eligible state departments of education throughout the nation to a computer which stores and transmits individual educational and medical data for each migrant child. This system enables migrant education projects to provide continuity in the learning process.

Who Is Eligible For Title I/Migrant Funds?

Any LEA with identified migrant students is eligible to apply for Title I/Migrant funds.

LEAs may apply for these funds by obtaining and completing an appropriate application form and submitting it to the New Jersey Department of Education, Title I/Migrant, ESEA, for approval.

Certain additional agencies designated by the SEA may also be eligible for funding.

What Are The Responsibilites Of The New Jersey Migrant Education Program?

1. Assuring the efficient administration of the statewide Migrant Education Program.
2. Assisting LEAs with the recruiting of migrant children.
3. Providing technical assistance in developing an application for funds.
4. Reviewing and approving project applications.
5. Monitoring the implementation of project activities on a continual basis, including budget and fiscal procedures.
6. Providing timely migrant student records through the M.S.R.T.S.
7. Coordinating other services available to migrant children.

What Are The Responsibilities Of A Local Migrant Education Project?

1. Providing identification, recruitment and enrollment services.
2. Updating the M.S.R.T.S. on a continual basis.
3. Providing supplemental instructional services.
4. Coordinating delivery of comprehensive health and nutrition services.
5. Arranging special pupil transportation.
6. Providing social services and/or making necessary referrals.

How Can Other Agencies Cooperate?

If you know of any migrant children now living or temporarily staying in New Jersey, please contact us.

If your agency's services are available to migrant families, please send a list of available services and pertinent information to the New Jersey Department of Education.

To Find Out More, Contact . . .

New Jersey Migrant Education Program
Branch of Basic Skills Improvement
Division of School Programs
New Jersey Department of Education CN 500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625 Phone: (609) 292-8463

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"Migrant Education — Harvests of Hope"

Your Migrant Recruiter is:

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